



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 28, 1998

Mr. Kevin D. Pagan  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of McAllen  
P.O. Box 220  
McAllen, Texas 78505-0220

OR98-1784

Dear Mr. Pagan:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 117429.

The City of McAllen received a request for copies of several offense reports. You contend that the offense reports are excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.108(a)(1) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." You indicate that the requested offense reports relate to a pending criminal prosecution. Based upon this representation, we conclude that the release of the offense reports would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *See generally* Gov't Code § 552.108(c); *Houston Chronicle*, 531 S.W.2d 177; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, you must release the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information, even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. Although section 552.108(a)(1) authorizes you to withhold the remaining information from disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. *See* Gov't Code § 552.007.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Hattaway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Hattaway" clearly distinguishable.

Karen E. Hattaway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KEH/mjc

Ref: ID# 117429

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Cynthia Ordaz  
1500 Martin Street  
McAllen, Texas 78501  
(w/o enclosures)